EXCISE

E.a.5

278

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Eschmelzer DATE 7/2/85
SCDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
E.O. RSE ED STDS MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☑
RELEASE DENIED ☑ in part
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS b1, a5

SECRET

TO : The Secretary

FROM : T - James Buckley

SUBJECT: F-15 Enhancement - Next Steps

You have my report of the February 26 meetings on the Hill and my memo for the NSC meeting on February 27. I want to outline for you the actions we plan to take in the days ahead with respect to the Congress, the press, and the Saudis.

The Congress

As I noted to you, there was genuine satisfaction with our willingness to have real consultations with the Congress on this issue. Senate Democrats asked that we prolong the period of consultations in order to allow the members, particularly those absent at the Thursday meeting, to express their views. I emphasized that we were quite pressed for time.

Next week three teams from the Department and DOD will be contacting key members of both Houses to explain our rationale and to answer questions. We also plan to arrange a DIA briefing on the Soviet threat to the region for members of the foreign affairs and armed services committees in both Houses.

We anticipate submitting the informal notification on the fuel tanks and AIM-9L missiles to the Congress within the next two weeks. We would have time before the Easter recess for the twenty-day period of informal notification to run. After the recess we would give the Congress the formal notification

RDS-1, 3 - 2/27/01

DECLASSIFIED

for these items, i.e., on/about April 21, starting that 30-day period when we can expect hearings in both Houses. We may wish to press for an early resolution and vote on the question during this period.

The Saudis

As you know, the cable to the Saudis will go out this afternoon. John West will be in Riyadh and is seeking meetings with the Saudi principals beginning Saturday.

The Press

We are considering an early press backgrounder after we have the Saudi reaction, i.e., next week. Rick Burt, Nick Veliotes, and a DOD representative would background. We are in touch with Bill Dyess concerning form and timing. We want to deal with the public confusion that now surrounds our specific intentions, but more importantly, we want to put across: (1) the strategic thinking behind our proposals; and (2) the fact that there is no "quid pro quo" involved for Israel; both elements proceed from our strategic analysis and needs.

NEA:HPrecht:cel
2/28/81 x-29076

Clearances: S/P:Mr. Fairbanks (draf
PM:
H:ADrischler
NEA:NVeliotes

DECLASSIFIED